

Where's the art?

Art Education is often promoted as anything you want it to be — enrichment, exposure, even entertainment. Another myth is that art can be taught just about anywhere, often for serving at-risk or special needs students. The truth is *all* children benefit from arts study regardless of their at-risk or special needs status, and it is in the *school* where the majority of students have the best and most equal opportunity for arts learning. No one can ensure equity and access to *all* our students the way the nation's K-12 schools can — with arts instruction provided during the school day, as an equal part of the curriculum, and taught by full-time arts educators.

Yet, only fifty-five percent of the nation's elementary schools had full time visual arts teachers (45% did not); 73% of the students had art instruction once or twice a week; the average time for art instruction was 43 minutes per class; the mean teaching load was 555 students per week for elementary visual arts teachers, and 49 percent of the elementary art teachers taught in two or more schools during the academic year 1999-2000, according to the National Center for Education Statistics report, NCES 2002-131.

We need better arts education policies for our children!



What Can You Do?

- *Lead efforts to generate public understanding of the ideas behind the importance of art education policies that promote student learning in art.*
- *Encourage parents, school boards, legislators, press/media to support better policies for art education programs that lead to student learning in art.*
- *Spend time at public meetings to review how art education policies can enhance the quality of art education for all students.*

SUPPORT IMPROVING ART EDUCATION POLICIES.

THE NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
1916 ASSOCIATION DRIVE ■ RESTON, VA 20191-1590 ■ 703-860-8000